

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1–10 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 were objected to for reciting the term “solid image sensor” rather than the commonly accepted term “solid-state image sensor.” Applicants have amended the claims as suggested and believe this objection has now been overcome.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 6 recite a feature of “converting the image sensing signal in the interlace scan mode, into a progressive scan signal” which is not supported in the specification. In response, Applicants have deleted this limitation from the claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome.

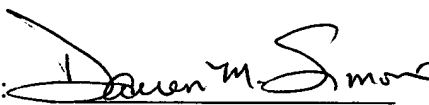
Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Udagawa (U.S. Patent 6,519,000) in view of Hieda (U.S. Patent 6,011,583) and in further view of Glenn (U.S. Patent 5,349,385). The Examiner relies on Udagawa to meet the present invention's solid-state image sensor limitation. (Office Action page 4) However, in the present invention "an image sensing charge in each pixel of the solid-state image sensor is output as one frame signal in one frame period in the progressive scan mode." (Claims 1 and 6) As supported in the specification, "in the progressive scan mode, image sensing charges of the pixels obtained by the respective photosensors S of the CCD image sensor 23 are read out to the vertical transfer registers VR by means of the sensor gate signal SG, for every two fields equivalent to 1 frame period (1F)." (Specification page 7, lines 9-12) "The timing signal generator 28 generates a sensor gate signal SG of 2 fields (2V) equivalent to one frame cycle (1F)." (Specification page 7, lines 3-4) In other words, the present invention outputs a progressive scan image in one frame period, which is equal to two field periods. As noted by the Examiner, Udagawa discloses a sensor that operates in both progressive and interlace modes. However, Udagawa also discloses "in the still picture mode one frame data is output during one field period." (Column 2, lines 53-54) Hence, Udagawa discloses outputting a progressive scan image (comprising one frame) in one field period, rather than in one frame period as required in the present claims. Thus, Udagawa's sensor cannot meet the present invention's limitation of "output as one frame signal in one frame period in the progressive scan mode." Therefore, for at least this reason, Udagawa, Hieda, and Glenn fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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